

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VANCOU 00554 281335Z

51

ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2144

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EO 11652 NA

TAGS EFIS, ELAB, CA

SUBJ BC FISHING INDUSTRY STRIKE

1. B.C. FISHING INDUSTRY SHUT DOWN FRIDAY JULY 25 WHEN 7000 SHOREWORKER, FISHERMEN AND TENDERMEN MEMBERS OF UNITED FISHERIES AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION (UFAWU) STRUCK AFTER LENGTHY NEGOTIATIONS BROKE DOWN. PREVIOUS CONTRACT EXPIRED APRIL 15, 1975.

2. EMPLOYERS ASSOCIATION, THE FISHERIES ASSOCIATION OF B.C., SAYS IT HAS OFFERED SHOREWORKERS DLR 1 PER HOUR PAY RAISE ON DLRS 4.76 BASE RETROACTIVE TO APRIL PLUS 75 CENTS MORE NEXT YEAR AS WELL AS DENTAL PLAN AND COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE BUT INSISTS ON TWO-YEAR CONTRACT BEING SIGNED. ASSOCIATION ALSO OFFERS FISHERMEN MINIMUM 60 CENTS PER POUND FOR SOCKEYE SALMON AND 63 CENTS NEXT YEAR BUT UNION DEMANDS 80 CENTS PER POUND AND WILL ACCEPT ONLY ONE-YEAR AGREEMENT.

3. LATEST EMPLOYER OFFER TO BE VOTED ON NEXT WEEK BUT UNION RECOMMENDS REJECTION AND UNLIKELY OFFER WILL BE ACCEPTED. STRIKE COULD BE LENGTHY AND SERIOUSLY AFFECT SALMON PRODUCTION THIS YEAR AND NEXT. UNION HAS ANNOUNCED PLANS TO PROCESS AND SELL SALMON ON ITS OWN ACROSS CANADA BEGINNING IN NEXT FEW DAYS.

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PAGE 02 VANCOU 00554 281335Z

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